

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 4, 6, 10, and 14, will have been amended and claims 7-9 and 15 will have been previously canceled. Additionally, claims 17-19 will have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action, together with an indication of the allowability of all of the claims pending in the present application.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and the receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 10-14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,200,138 to ANDO et al. in view of the screen shots of Lords of the Realm II.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present amendments and remarks overcome this rejection.

The present disclosed invention is directed to a game apparatus, game program, and game method wherein the player's character is displayed within a game field in a first display area (71 of figure 7) and a larger predetermined area of game field around the character is separately displayed in a second display area (75). In the disclosed embodiments, the second display area or radar screen (72 as

shown in figure 7) further includes a target position indicator 75. For example, the disclosed present invention includes determining whether the target exists with the second display area (screen) at step S11 of figure 6. In response to this determination the present disclosed invention shows either the actual target position (75) in the second display as shown in figure 9 (step S13 of figure 6) or shows a target direction (75) when the target is not in the second display area (step S12 of figure 6).

As admitted by the Examiner on page 3 of the Official Action and contrary to the present invention, ANDO et al. does not disclose two display areas. Moreover, ANDO et al. does not disclose two display areas that display both the game field and a larger predetermined area of game field around the character. The reference to ANDO et al. discloses using arrows (208 and 210 shown in figures 13 and 14) in only a single display that show the direction to a destination.

The screen shots of Lord of the Realm II merely shows a larger screen of an immediate area around a player and a smaller window showing the entire play area. The screen shots of Lord of the Realm II do not disclose an indicator for a target and furthermore do not disclose an indicator for a direction to the target.

Thus, neither ANDO et al. nor the screen shots of Lord of the Realm II disclose, inter alia, an indicator for said target position for said player's character in said larger predetermined area when said target position is in said larger predetermined area of said game field, and when said target position of said player's character cannot be displayed in said larger predetermined area said

display controller displays an indicator for indicating a direction to said target position, the indicator being located in a vicinity of an edge of said second display area in accordance with a recognition result by said recognizer as recited by claim 1.

Similarly, neither ANDO et al. nor the screen shots of Lord of the Realm II disclose, inter alia, displaying, an indicator for the target position of the player's character in the larger predetermined area around the player's character of the second display area when the target position is in the larger predetermined area of the game field, and when the target position of the player's character cannot be displayed in the larger predetermined area around the player's character of the second display area, an indicator for indicating a direction toward the target position, the indicator being displayed in a vicinity of an edge of the second display area as recited by claim 4.

Likewise, neither ANDO et al. nor the screen shots of Lord of the Realm II disclose, inter alia, displaying an indicator for the target position of the player's character in the larger predetermined area when the target position is in the larger predetermined area of the game field, and when the target position of the player's character cannot be displayed in the larger predetermined area displaying an indicator for indicating a direction toward the target position, the indicator being displayed in a vicinity of an edge of the second display area in accordance with a recognition result of recognizing the target position as recited by claim 10.

Moreover, there is no suggestion or disclosure in ANDO et al. or the screen shots of Lord of the Realm II, separately or in any proper combination that render obvious the features of the present claimed invention. In particular, an indicator selectively indicating a target position of a player's character or an indicator for indicating a direction to said target position is not disclosed.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

With regard to dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, and 12, Applicant asserts that they are allowable on their own merit and at least because they depend on one of independent claims 1, 4, and 10, which Applicant submits have been shown to be allowable.

New claims 17-19 add no prohibited new matter and are submitted to be allowable. They find support in the specification at, inter alia, page 16 and figure 6.

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in any proper combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Additionally, minor amendments have been made to claims 1, 4, 6, 10, and 14 in order to improve the language thereof. In these amendments, Applicant have made changes to the language of the claims to render the same more self

consistent, as well as more fully in compliance with U.S. syntax, idiom and grammar. These amendments do not change the scope of the claims but are merely cosmetic changes that give rise to no file wrapper estoppel.

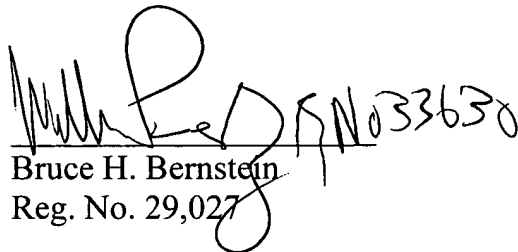
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that he has now done so. Applicant has pointed out the specific language of Applicant's claims that define over the references of record and respectfully request an indication to such effect, in due course.

The amendments to the claims made in this amendment that have not been made to overcome the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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